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CONTAMINATION PROBLEMS IN
NEW BEDFORD, FAIRHAVEN, DARTMOUTH, AND ACUSHNET, MASSACHUSETTS
SUMMARY OF CONCERNS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

written on behalf of residents
in the above mentioned towns
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SUMMARY SHEET OF CONCERNS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

DARTMOUTH

1. Resolve Superfund Site

   * Begin implementing remedial measures immediately;
   * Carry out solidification process and removal of contaminated sludge; but
   * Include a vapor recovery system to capture and filter toxic gases. These will evaporate from the ground and sludge as it is dug up and exposed to the air. Gases will also evaporate during the solidification process reactions;
   * Include air monitoring of individual air contaminants during work;
   * Consider the off site migration of contaminants in the groundwater and in the surface water as a primary and not secondary concern;
   * Fast track the design and implementation of remedial measures to intercept the off site movement of contaminants towards Cornell Pond and probably in ground water towards private wells and public wells further south.

2. Route 6 Public Well

   * Include this toxic site as part of the resolve superfund site and procede with clean up. Toxic substances stored and spilled on site included waste from the Resolve Facility. This site continues to force Dartmouth residents to purchase more water from the town of New Bedford water supply system than is necessary.

3. Fishing in Clark's Cove

   * Enforce fishing restrictions in the Cove both for domestic and commercial fishing.

NEW BEDFORD

1. Air Contamination From the Continued Incineration of PCB Laden Sewage Sludge at the New Bedford Wastewater Treatment Plant

   * An emergency condition must be declared and resulting strict time comitment be established to ensure the rapid (within one month if possible) cleaning out of all remaining heavily contaminated sewage lines in New Bedford. This facility is not equipped to thoroughly burn PCB's and is probably emitting highly dangerous chlorinated dioxins and furans into the surrounding air. These gases could potentially be seriously affecting the health of residents nearby the incinerator or

in towns located in the direction of wind movement (southwest to northeast most often or toward Fairhaven).

2. Exposed Mud Flat PCB Hot Spot Near Aerovox

* This area is the most serious source of PCB vapors in the entire four town region and must be dealt with as soon as possible on an emergency basis. It is simultaneously an area where residents have complete access (continued fishing and wading). It is recommended that a committee of experts (including residents) be rapidly gathered to discuss (a) the possiblity of installing an interim method of protecting residents from access and evaporating PCBs; and/or (b) remedying the entire problem as soon as possible. Such a committee is necessary for forcing the selection of remedial measures adequate for carrying out the above goals, and for insisting that a implementation of a rapid time line be enforced. It is criminal to allow these delays to continue.

3. Interim Protection at hot spots in the town of New Bedford

* Other areas where PCBs were detected at high levels in the air (Sullivan's Ledge) must be temporarily covered with at least sand and soil for restricting dust and possibly a temporary cap for restricting vapors. This should be done immeditately at Sullivan's Ledge but should not serve as an excuse for delaying further remedial actions.

* Investigate with soil probes the surface soils in areas suspected of high levels of PCBs (park areas near Aerovox and others including homes). These should then be covered immediately with sand and soil layers to stop direct contact, dust, and possibly evaporation. A background study should be done to establish what background PCB surface soil levels are in the area. The carrying out of these suggested interim remedial measures should be prioritized on the basis of how much higher soil sample results are at a particular spot. Residents should participate in the selection of spots for sampling.

4. River Estuary Hot Spots

* The committee referred to in suggestion 2. should include in their task the selection of a plan for handling the hot spots in the estuary, and strict time requirements for carrying them out. Included should be a plan as to if and how to dredge the estuary for boat travel during this interim period. (see discussion for more detail)

* Fencing should be placed along the entire river bank area to restrict access.

5. Strictly Enforce Fishing Restrictions in the Harbor

ACUSHNET

1. High levels of PCBs in the air in downtown Acushnet

   * A rapid response to the Aerovox mud flat area should contribute to a decrease in PCB levels in this area. Other possible sources should be considered by knowledgable residents who may be aware of dredge dumping areas.

2. Soil testing to identify areas of suspected high contamination

   * Residents should lead an investigation into areas of concern and appropriate remediation should follow.

3. Acushnet Landfill

   * An investigation by residents should take place immediately to identify (a) indications of chemical outbreaks, and (b) the location of areas where residents with private wells may be close enough to draw in leachate and where children may be getting near the dump or chemical leahcate areas.

   * Establish a strict entry and inventory requirement for the landfill operators.

FAIRHAVEN

1. Limit Access to All Suspected Contaminated Areas

   * Fence off areas including Atlas Tack Facility, the entire estuary including Rio Park and Fort Phoenix Beech, and others areas residents believe should be fenced off until testing can be done to demonstrate that a safe situation exists.

2. Superfund Atlas Tack Lagoon

   * This uncontrolled toxic site is also known to have received PCB wastes and should be cleaned up.

HEALTH STUDY / MEDICAL CARE CLINIC

1. Act Immediately on commencing health study and clinic

   * These should begin on an emergency basis in an attempt to (a) identify diseases through the health study which might be detected and treated early if medical care providers are alerted to the effects of PCB may be having and

(b) to actively assist those in the interim who may be suffering from related stress and/or disease

2. Study More People in phase II of the proposed Health Study
3. Allow for Citizen Selection of Private Contractor to Perform Health Study
4. Establish a Medical Care Clinic for Providing Early Detection or Assistance Services to Concerned Citizens and Those Who Believe They've been Exposed to High Levels of PCB's.

   * Include determining what might be a logical procedure for investigating children. This might include measuring PCB levels in the blood and examining the blood condition.

   * Include a clinic for screening PCB levels in pregnant women, testing mothers milk for PCB levels, and making breast feeding recommendations on the basis of the findings.

   * Include reassuring people about more serious or less serious dangers; locating knowledgable physicians for treating conditions that might associated with PCB exposures

OVERALL RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Enforce the Clean Water Act National Pollution Discharge Ellimination Permit Requirements restricting the discharge of priority pollutants into waterways or sewage lines

2. Establish a bimonthly system of citizen participation and communication sessions

   * The intent here is to allow for the direct input and in some cases the particiapation of citizens in decision making meetings and possibly field investigations in less dangerous areas.